

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for circuit emulation over a multi-packet label switching (MPLS) network, comprising:

receiving a time division multiplexed data stream at an ingress end;

dividing said data stream into a set of fixed sized packets;

adding a service header to each of said packets;

adding an additional header on top of said service header in accordance with MPLS protocols;

removing said additional header after each packet has been processed by said MPLS network; and

using said service header to recover said data stream at an egress end.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

monitoring said data stream; and

attaching an alarm bit in a service header of a subsequent packet if a break in said data stream is detected.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

using a structure pointer in said service header to indicate whether a header byte in a synchronous payload envelope is present within a packet, said structure pointer indicating the location of said header byte in said packet.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

reserving a pointer value indicating that said header byte is not present within said packet.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

recording a stuffing time difference in a service header at said ingress end; and

implementing said stuffing time difference at said egress end.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing a first set of frames into a data buffer;

calculating a first data average of said first set of frames in said data buffer to obtain a threshold value;

storing a next set of frames into said data buffer;

calculating a next data average of said next set of frames in said data buffer;

comparing said next data average to said threshold value;

if said next data average is greater than said threshold value:

generating a negative justification indicator; and

sending one more byte at said egress end;

if said next data average is less than said threshold value:

generating a positive justification indicator; and

sending one less byte at said egress end.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

checking a sequence counter in said service header of each packet in said set of packets;

locating at least one header byte in said set of packets;

measuring all bytes between two header bytes; and

pushing said set of packets into a frame.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

checking a sequence counter in said service header of each packet in said set of packets to determine if all packets are present sequentially; and

inserting a dummy packet if a packet is missing in said set of packets.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

receiving an out of sequence packet; and

discarding said out of sequence packet.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

checking a sequence counter in said service header of each packet in said set of packets to determine if all packets are present sequentially;

terminating a current connection if multiple packets are missing in said set of packets;

discarding said set of packets; and

establishing a new connection to begin receiving packets.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

checking a sequence counter in said service header of each packet in said set of packets to determine if all packets are present sequentially; and

establishing an in-frame condition after said set of packets are received in sequence.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

determining whether said in-frame condition is valid; and  
terminating a current connection if said in-frame condition is not valid.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium including code for circuit emulation over a multi-packet label switching (MPLS) network, ~~comprising the~~ code operable to:

~~logic code for receiving~~ receive a time division multiplexed data stream at an ingress end;

~~logic code for dividing~~ divide said data stream into a set of fixed sized packets;

~~logic code for adding~~ add a service header to each of said packets;

~~logic code for adding~~ add an additional header on top of said service header in accordance with MPLS protocols;

~~logic code for removing~~ remove said additional header after each packet has been processed by said MPLS network; and

~~logic code for using~~ use said service header to recover said data stream at an egress end.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium of claim 13, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the code is further operable to:

~~logic code for monitoring~~ monitor said data stream; and  
~~logic code for attaching~~ attach an alarm bit in a service header of a subsequent packet if a break in said data stream is detected.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium of claim 13, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the code is further operable to:

~~logic code for using~~ use a structure pointer in said service header to indicate whether a header byte in a synchronous payload envelope is present within a packet, said structure pointer indicating the location of said header byte in said packet.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium of claim 15, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the code is further operable to:

~~logic code for reserving~~ reserve a pointer value indicating that said header byte is not present within said packet.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium of claim 13, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the code is further operable to:

~~logic code for recording~~ record a stuffing time difference in a service header at said ingress end; and  
~~logic code for implementing~~ implement said stuffing time difference at said egress end.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium of claim 13, ~~further comprising wherein the~~ code is further operable to:

~~logic code for storing~~ store a first set of frames into a data buffer;

~~logic code for calculating~~ calculate a first data average of said first set of frames in said data buffer to obtain a threshold value;

~~logic code for storing~~ store a next set of frames into said data buffer;

~~logic code for calculating~~ calculate a next data average of said next set of frames in said data buffer;

~~logic code for comparing~~ compare said next data average to said threshold value;

if said next data average is greater than said threshold value:

~~logic code for generating~~ generate a negative justification indicator; and

~~logic code for sending~~ send one more byte at said egress end;

if said next data average is less than said threshold value:

~~logic code for generating~~ generate a positive justification indicator; and

~~logic code for sending~~ send one less byte at said egress end.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium of claim 13, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the code is further operable to:

~~logic code for checking~~ check a sequence counter in said service header of each packet in said set of packets;

~~logic code for locating~~ locate at least one header byte in said set of packets;

~~logic code for measuring~~ measure all bytes between two header bytes; and

~~logic code for pushing~~ push said set of packets into a frame.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium of claim 13, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the code is further operable to:

~~logic code for checking~~ check a sequence counter in said service header of each packet in said set of packets to determine if all packets are present sequentially; and

~~logic code for inserting~~ insert a dummy packet if a packet is missing in said set of packets.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium of claim 20, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the code is further operable to:

~~logic code for receiving~~ receive an out of sequence packet; and

logic code for discarding said out of sequence packet.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium of claim 13, ~~further comprising wherein the~~ code is further operable to:

~~logic code for checking~~ check a sequence counter in said service header of each packet in said set of packets to determine if all packets are present sequentially;

~~logic code for establishing~~ establish an in-frame condition after all packets for a frame are received in sequence;

~~logic code for terminating~~ terminate a current connection if multiple packets are missing in said set of packets;

~~logic code for discarding~~ discard said set of packets;  
and

~~logic code for establishing~~ establish a new connection to begin receiving packets.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-product~~ readable medium of claim 22, ~~further comprising wherein the~~ code is further operable to:

~~logic code for checking~~ check a sequence counter in said service header of each packet in said set of packets to determine if all packets are present sequentially; and

~~logic code for establishing~~ establish an in-frame condition after the set of packets are received in sequence.



24. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-product~~  
readable medium of claim 23, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the  
code is further operable to:

~~logic code for determining~~ determine whether said in-  
frame condition is valid; and

~~logic code for terminating~~ terminate a current connection  
if said in-frame condition is not valid.